

York where he lived with his wife, Freda. His political career began at the local level where he served as Queensbury Town Supervisor and Warren County Supervisor. He then served six years as New York State assemblyman.

Jerry successfully ran as a Republican for Congress in 1978 and steadily gained in popularity in his home 22nd Congressional District of New York. In 1990, Solomon received more votes than any other New York state congressman.

His was a familiar voice for House Republicans on matters regarding veterans and our national defense. And I was honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with him in support of our men and women in uniform and to protect the American flag.

Jerry was a true patriot and personified what is to be an American. I am proud to have called him a colleague and personal friend.

#### RECOGNIZING FORT WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fort Washington Elementary School for their distinguished educational program.

Fort Washington is a school with a rich history. Fort Washington Elementary Union School District formed on July 6, 1874 and consisted of one school. Lincoln Elementary Union School, a one-room school, formed January 21, 1909. On March 3, 1945, the two schools merged after the original Lincoln School burned down. A new Fort Washington Lincoln School, consisting of five classrooms, was built in 1957 at the site of the current school. On December 22, 1959, the new district elected to join eight other rural elementary school districts to form the highly acclaimed Clovis Unified School District. Since then, the school has added over one dozen classrooms, a staff lounge, multi-purpose room, administrative offices, outdoor amphitheater, and a blacktop area. Clovis Unified built another elementary school on the site of the original Lincoln School in 1977. This new campus was named Lincoln Elementary. Fort Washington-Lincoln School was then changed to Fort Washington Elementary School, proud home of the Patriots.

Over 750 students are currently being served by 67 dedicated staff members. In June of 1986, Fort Washington was selected as one of 210 exemplary public schools from across the nation as part of the United States Department of Education's First National Recognition Program for elementary schools. In 1997, the school was recognized as a California Distinguished School. During the 1998-1999 school year, the school accomplished a feat that has only been attained by two percent of the schools in the United States; Fort Washington received the honor of being designated a National Blue Ribbon School for the third time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fort Washington Elementary School for their renowned educational program. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Fort Washington Element-

tary School many more years of continued success.

#### TURKEY CONTINUES TO DEEPEN ITS DEMOCRATIC VALUES

### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, we have been debating in this body for some time now how to achieve the appropriate balance, in war and in peace, between protection of the state and protection of the individual liberties that are so important to a healthy democracy. As we wrestle with the aftermath of September 11th, we begin to see the same debate and the same concerns echoed in other democracies around the world.

One debate, not much focused on, has occurred in our ally and good friend, Turkey. That nation, which has lost over 30,000 of its citizens due to terrorist attacks, and which has suffered great hardship as a result of their support for our policy of economic sanctions against Iraq and others in the Middle East, has nonetheless conducted a vigorous public debate about what kind of democracy should flourish in Turkey. That debate has ended with a series of constitutional reforms, reforms that the State Department says "embodies the values that the international coalition is defending."

These reforms are broad ranging. In some cases, they expressly limit the power of the state to stifle freedom of expression, or to pry into the private lives of citizens, even those who might be suspected of criminal behavior. Others enshrine individual rights to gather, to protest or to form political parties. Still others aim for a more inclusive society by allowing use of languages other than Turkish. A group of the reforms seek to place an economic floor of support below the citizens in order to help assure opportunities for economic betterment. Finally, a group of reforms seek to streamline government and make it more responsive to the citizenry.

More than 30 constitutional reforms were adopted. Once implemented, they should go a long way toward erasing any opposition to Turkey's entry into the European Union.

It is also important to note that these reforms have been made in a Moslem nation. Turkey has always believed it important to protect the secular nature of its society, often at the risk of being criticized from within and without. Turkey's reforms, indeed its impetus to reform, is living proof that democracy and Islam are compatible.

Mr. Speaker, there are two other things about these reforms that are remarkable. First, Turkey moved boldly on many fronts to examine past practices and seems willing to make large changes to enshrine democracy. Second, despite economic pressures, political pressures, and the exigencies of the current war against terrorists, it never wavered in its pursuit of a democratic ideal. Turkey, and the entire community of democracies, should feel justly proud of what has been accomplished to date.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO HILDAGARD (CHIEF) ALEXANDER

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember an honorable and distinguished man who proudly served his nation for twenty years in the United States Army. It is with profound sadness that I now rise to honor the life and memory of Hildagard (Chief) Alexander.

Chief Alexander has witnessed some of the most frightening scenes in American war history. The Chief enlisted in the Army in 1942 and was soon in the thick of battle landing on Omaha Beach in Normandy. Chief Alexander went on to serve in the Korean War before being discharged in 1962. It is my privilege to acknowledge Chief Alexander for the sacrifices he made so future generations can enjoy the freedoms and liberties that shape the American way of life. Furthermore, I wish to honor Chief for his role as a community leader in Colorado's Western Slope. Perhaps others best remember him as the children's representative for the Shriner's Hospital. He dedicated much of his time toward bringing joy and happiness into the lives of children. Chief was a proud man whom many had deep respect for. We will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Alexander will be especially missed by his wife, Margaret, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. As family and friends mourn his passing, Chief's compassion will shine through the hearts of those closest to him. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy and warmest regards to his family during this time of remembrance. Chief Alexander will surely be missed.

#### TRIBUTE TO GEORGE D. TABLACK

### HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of a George D. Tablack.

Mr. Tablack was a lifelong resident and a well-respected leader of the Mahoning Valley. He was a Korean War Veteran, a steelworker at Youngstown Sheet and Tube and later an accountant with the Ohio Department of Taxation.

Mr. Tablack served in the Ohio House of Representatives from May 1970 until 1978. In 1979, he was appointed to the Ohio Environmental Review Board by then Governor James A. Rhodes and also sworn in as Sheriff until 1981. He later went on to pursue a successful career as a lobbyist and political consultant until 1995, when he became the Mayor of Campbell.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember Mr. Tablack for his outstanding accomplishments while serving as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives. He, along with then Ohio Senator Harry Meshel, will be regarded as two of the greatest lawmakers in Ohio's history.

I send my deepest regrets and sympathy to his wife and to his family. May God bless them.